Memorandum for Record April 18, 1949

Captain James S. Russell, USN

DONALDSON SURVEY - 1949

REFER TO SYMBOL: MAN:JSR

On Friday, April 15, a conference, attended by Dr. Jensen, Mr. Finley, Colonel Preuss and Captain Russell, was held on the subject of the annual biological and piscatorial resurvey of Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls. It was agreed that DMA would forewarn the Navy Department that the AEC would like a repeat of the 1948 performance of Dr. Donaldson and approximately the same party, equipment and dates. It was brought out that, in addition to the usual two weeks at Bikini and two weeks at Eniwetok, it might be desirable to spend an additional week at an uncontaminated Atoll - possibly Likiep. (10°N. 161°E)

Colonel Preuss pointed out that military air travel in the Pacific area was presently extremely restricted, and therefore it might be necessary to move the party by commercial air. It was further pointed out that DMA should have a fairly concise memorandum from the Division of Biology and Medicine as to dates, times, numbers of individuals, and facilities desired. Mr. Finley agreed to provide this information. The availability of a Navy liaison officer to accompany the party was discussed, particularly that the chances for availability were not too good. Colonel Preuss asked if Captain Draeger, MC (USN) might not be called upon to provide an officer from his activity. Mr. Jensen pointed out that Dr. Donaldson had an aversion to an officer who might have preconceived notions as to how the survey should be conducted, and therefore that a general line officer of the Navy might be more desirable. He stated that Lt. Schmidt, whose services were provided last time, was an eminently satisfactory choice. Members of DMA present agreed to notify the Navy Department (Op-36), in a preliminary way, that the survey was desired by the Commission.

Pursuant to this agreement Captain Russell called Captain Martell (Op-36) on April 18. Captain Martell confirmed the extreme restrictions on availability of military air transport, stating that the run from San Francisco to Honolulu was not as critical as the run from Honolulu to Kwajalein. Captain Russell suggested that the services of an AVP (small sea plane tender), plus a detachment of PBM sea planes, might be in order if ComAirPac and CincPac had a mind to conduct a sea plane advanced air base exercise in connection with the survey. Captain Martell agreed to make a preliminary investigation both with respect to the AVP idea and the availability of an LCI at Kwajalein. He asked that a written request be transmitted to CNO (attention Op-36). This was promised.

[redacted]

James S. Russell
Captain, USN

cc: Biology & Medicine
Attention: Dr. Jensen
Mr. Finley

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MEDICINE

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Bikini

MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY